



THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE 2005 WATER QUALITY REPORT

We are proud to report that the water provided by the City of Sunnyvale continues to meet established water quality standards. The City is required to test water quality over the course of each year, and the California State Department of Health Services requires us to distribute to all City customers an annual report on water quality. This report provides our customers with important information on the City's water supply sources and water quality testing.

In this report you will find important information, including a description of contaminants that may be present in source water. Inside, you will find the results of water quality testing performed in 2005 showing concentrations of various contaminants relative to health and aesthetic standards.

The bottom line is this: testing shows that the water provided by the City of Sunnyvale meets established water quality standards. The City is pleased to present this report to you and welcomes any comments you may have regarding the information contained in it. Please feel free to contact Val Conzet, Public Works Supervisor, at (408) 730-7510, or by e-mail at vconzet@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

這是一個關於喝水的重要報告，如果看不懂，可請人翻譯。

City's Water Sources

Approximately 87 percent of the water provided by the City to our customers during a normal year is treated surface water. The remaining 13 percent is ground water pumped from nine City-owned and operated wells, and recycled water for some landscape and industrial customers.

The surface water comes from two sources. The Sunnyvale Water Program manages the delivery of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) water from six delivery points located along their transmission pipeline, which runs through the northern part of the City. Eighty percent of SFPUC's water originates in the Hetch-Hetchy Reservoir located in Yosemite National Park, and the other 20 percent comes from the Calaveras or San Antonio reservoirs in the Alameda Creek watershed. About 42 percent of Sunnyvale's total water supply comes from the SFPUC.

The Sunnyvale water program also receives water from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) through connections in the southern part of the City. SCVWD obtains water from several sources, including the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta and Anderson and Calero reservoirs, and treats the water at their Rinconada Treatment Plant in Los Gatos. About 45 percent of Sunnyvale's total water supply comes from the SCVWD.

Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy or who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers about drinking water.

USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants, are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants: such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

Cryptosporidium and Giardia are parasitic microbes found in most surface-water supplies that can pose a potential health threat. If any of these microbes is ingested, symptoms may include diarrhea, stomach cramps, upset stomach and slight fever. People with severely weakened immune systems, such as those identified previously, are likely to have more severe and persistent symptoms than healthy individuals, including complications that can become

life-threatening. We encourage immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

The SFPUC and the SCVWD regularly test for Cryptosporidium and Giardia in both source and treated water supplies serving the East Bay, South Bay, and San Francisco Peninsula. Both Cryptosporidium and Giardia have occasionally been found at very low levels. Current test methods do not allow us to determine with certainty if the microbes are dead or if they are capable of infecting humans.

Protecting Our Watersheds: The SFPUC aggressively protects the natural water resources entrusted to its care by continuously monitoring its watersheds' weather conditions, water turbidity levels and microbial contaminants. The 2005 annual update of the Watershed Control Program and Sanitary Survey describes the Hetch-Hetchy watershed and water supply system, identifies potential sources of contamination in the watershed, discusses the existing and recommended watershed management practices that protect water quality, and summarizes the water quality monitoring conducted in 2005.

The SFPUC also conducts a sanitary survey of local watersheds every five years. The 2005 assessment found that SFPUC watersheds have very low levels of contaminants, which are associated with wildlife and, to a limited extent, human recreational activity.

Inorganic Contaminants: such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.

Organic Chemical Contaminants: including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants: which can be naturally-occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Pesticides and Herbicides: which may come from a variety of sources such as agricultural, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.

In order to ensure the tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) prescribe regulations to limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. CDHS regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.

Nitrate: nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue-baby syndrome. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Fecal Coliforms and E. coli: These are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Radon: Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, you can arrange for inexpensive and easy air quality testing. If the level of radon in your air is 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher, you should fix the problem. For additional information, contact the state radon program or call EPA's Radon hot line at (800) SOS-RADON.

Public Participation

If you are interested in providing input on decisions that affect drinking water quality, any member of the public may speak on any issue specifically coming before Council at a regularly scheduled City Council meeting, or on any topic you wish to bring to the Council's attention under the public comment portion of the agenda. You also can send a letter in advance of a meeting.

City Council meetings are held on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at 456 West Olive Ave. in Sunnyvale.

A list of City Council meetings, agenda items, and study issues is available on the City's Web site at www.sunnyvale.ca.gov or by calling the City Clerk's office at (408) 730-7483, TDD (408) 730-7501.

Disinfection

(Chloramine/Chlorine/Ammonia)

Sunnyvale residents should know that the water in the Sunnyvale system includes water treated with chloramine and well water that is tested but not treated. Chloramine, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, is more stable than chlorine and offers a number of health benefits. Chloramine lasts longer in water to provide more protection against pathogens such as bacteria and viruses, and produces lower levels of disinfection byproducts such as trihalomethanes (THMs). State and federal regulations effective January 2002 lowered the allowable level of exposure to disinfection by-products. The water provided by SFPUC and SCVWD is disinfected with chloramines which can affect dialysis treatment. The City maintains contact with dialysis treatment centers in the City. Residents on home dialysis should contact their physicians to discuss the impact on their treatment. The Transpacific Network for Dialysis at (415) 331-1545 can provide more information about chloramines and dialysis. Fish and aquarium owners should check with their local pet stores to make sure they are using the correct equipment for chloramine removal of any concentration.

Fluoridation

The SFPUC completed construction on the new, system-wide fluoridation facility in 2005. Beginning November 2005, all water from the SFPUC is fluoridated. However, the City's other wholesale water provider (SCVWD) has no plans to fluoridate its water, and the City does not fluoridate well water. As a result, some areas of Sunnyvale receive fluoridated water, other areas receive non-fluoridated water, and some areas receive a mixture of fluoridated and non-fluoridated water. An explanation and a map showing the different areas were sent to all customers. This information is also available on the City's Web site. If you would like more information please contact the Water Program at (408) 730-7510, TDD (408) 730-7501.

Information About The Drinking Water Source Assessment Program

The City has completed a Drinking Water Source Assessment Program (DWSAP) for the groundwater sources. The DWSAP was completed in January 2003, and submitted to the California Department of Health Services at that time. A copy of the DWSAP may be viewed by appointment at the City's Corporation Yard, 221 Commercial St., Sunnyvale. You may request a summary of the individual assessments by contacting the Water Utility Program at (408) 730-7510.

The City's groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to contamination by leaky underground tanks containing fuel or dry-cleaning chemicals, sewer collection systems, old septic systems, and machine shops. The City owns and operates nine deep wells, and no contaminants were detected in the 2005 test results. A summary of the City's DWSAP can be found at <http://swap.ice.ucdavis.edu/tsinfo/tsintro.asp>.

Violation Notice: This notification to all of our Sunnyvale customers is being performed in compliance with the laws and regulations of the California Department of Health Services to keep you fully informed about your drinking water.

Our system violated the total coliform MCL prescribed in Section 64426.1(b) (4), California Code of Regulations (CCR) in May 2005. Although this isolated incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

City of Sunnyvale routinely monitors for drinking water contaminants. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. The CCR requires the City of Sunnyvale to collect 46 routine samples per week to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. In May 232 samples were collected, and one was E. coli-positive. Staff believe this result was due to errors in the sampling process, and that at no time was there a risk to public health.

What should I do? You do not need to take corrective actions. If you have specific health concerns, please consult your doctor.

What is being done? In an effort to continue to improve quality control and avoid a repeat of such an incident, City of Sunnyvale has reviewed and revised the Sampling Plan, retrained staff in proper sampling procedures, and modified sample station locations.

For more information please contact Val Conzet at (408) 730-7510.

Important Contacts

Water Quality

7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (408) 730-7510

Utility Billing

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Residential (408) 730-7400
Commercial (408) 730-7681

Backflow and Cross Connection Control Program

7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (408) 730-7574

Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water. If you are interested in water information and decisions being made relative to new regulations, information is available on the Internet.

City of Sunnyvale

www.sunnyvale.ca.gov

California Dept. of Health Services (CDHS)

www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/default.htm

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov/ogwdw/

Dept. of Water Resources(DWR)

www.dwr.water.ca.gov/

2005 WATER QUALITY REPORT



2005 Water Quality Test Results for Water Provided by the City of Sunnyvale ⁽¹⁾

ALL RESULTS MET STATE AND FEDERAL WATER REGULATIONS

How to Read this Chart

The first column, labeled Standards, lists the standards for various water quality parameters and contaminants. The second column, labeled Water Test Results, shows the range of concentrations in water quality samples taken during 2005, as well as the average concentration. This data is shown for the three sources of Sunnyvale's water: well water, and imported surface water from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). To evaluate test results, compare the standards with the actual measured concentrations listed under Water Test Results. The final column describes where contaminants may originate. In most cases, the specific source of a contaminant is not known. All results met State and Federal water regulations.

STANDARDS				WATER TEST RESULTS						TYPICAL SOURCES IN DRINKING WATER	
Primary Standards - Mandatory Health Related Standards				Sunnyvale Well Water ⁽⁵⁾		Imported Surface Waters					
Parameter	Unit	MCL ⁽²⁾	PHG ⁽³⁾ [MCLG] ⁽⁴⁾			SCVWD ⁽⁶⁾		SFPUC ⁽⁷⁾			
				Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.		
CLARITY											
Turbidity ⁽⁸⁾ - Sunnyvale wells	NTU	5	N/A	0.1 - 1.1	0.39						Soil runoff
Turbidity ⁽⁸⁾ - Rinconada water treatment plant	NTU	0.3 ⁽⁹⁾	N/A			0.04 - 0.08	0.06				Soil runoff
Turbidity ⁽⁸⁾ - Sunol Valley water treatment plant	NTU	0.3 ⁽⁹⁾	N/A					100% ⁽¹²⁾			Soil runoff
MICROBIOLOGICAL											
Total Coliform Bacteria ⁽¹⁰⁾	% Pos	5	[0]	0 - 1	0.17	Absent - Absent	Absent		n/a		Naturally present in the environment
Heterotrophic Plate Count	CFU/ml	TT	[0]		n/a	4 - 124	44		n/a		Naturally present in the environment
ORGANIC CHEMICALS											
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	80	N/A	ND - ND	ND	35 - 65	46	11 - 71	38		By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	60	N/A	N/A - N/A	N/A	14 - 31	23	6 - 47	24		By-product of drinking water chlorination
MTBE ⁽¹⁴⁾	ppb	13	13	ND - ND	ND	ND - ND	ND		n/a		Leaking underground storage tanks; discharge from petroleum and chemical factories
INORGANIC CHEMICALS											
Aluminum	ppm	1	0.6	ND - ND	ND	ND - ND	ND	0.006 - 0.07	0.038		Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	ppb	50	0.004	ND - ND	ND	ND - ND	ND	ND - ND	ND		Erosion of natural deposits
Barium	ppm	1	2	ND - 0.17	0.06	ND - ND	ND		n/a		Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride-Natural ⁽¹⁸⁾	ppm	2.0	1	0.1 - 0.2	0.2	ND - 0.1	0.1	0.1 - 1.2	1		Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate + Nitrite as N	ppm	10	10	2.3 - 7.8	4.60		n/a		n/a		Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate as NO3 ⁽¹³⁾	ppm	45	45	9.3 - 34.2	19.1	ND - 5.0	3.0		n/a		Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use, erosion of natural deposits. <i>Health Note: Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL may become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die because high nitrate levels can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. High nitrate levels may also affect the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood of pregnant women.</i>
RADIONUCLIDES											
Gross Alpha	pCi/L	15	[0]	ND - 1.8	0.20	ND - ND	ND		n/a		Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta	pCi/L	50	[0]	ND - 2.8	0.7		n/a		n/a		Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium	pCi/L	20	0.43	ND - 0.6	0.3	ND - ND	ND				Erosion of natural deposit
Secondary Standards - Aesthetic Standards				Sunnyvale Well Water ⁽⁵⁾		Imported Surface Waters					
	Unit	MCL ⁽²⁾	PHG ⁽³⁾ [MCLG] ⁽⁴⁾			SCVWD ⁽⁶⁾		SFPUC ⁽⁷⁾			
				Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.	Range	Avg.		
PHYSICAL PARAMETERS											
Color	Units	15	N/A	<3 - 5	<3	<2.5 - <2.5	<2.5	<5 - 25	12		Naturally-occurring organic materials
Chloride	ppm	500	N/A	34.0 - 82.0	48.3	15 - 109	55	<3 - 25	9		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Foaming Agents	ppm	0.5	N/A	ND - ND	ND	<0.05 - <0.05	<0.05		n/a		Municipal and industrial waste discharges
Sulfate	ppm	500	N/A	22 - 43	37	48.9 - 70.6	59	1 - 42	19		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Zinc	ppm	5	N/A	ND - ND	ND	ND - ND	ND		n/a		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1,000	N/A	370 - 540	433	212 - 317	268	20 - 210	116		Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	umhos/cm	1600	N/A	583 - 829	683	286 - 624	482	24 - 435	155		Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Iron	ppm	0.3	N/A	ND - ND	ND	ND - ND	ND		n/a		Leaching from natural deposits
ADDITIONAL CONSTITUENTS											
pH	Units	N/A	N/A	7.5 - 7.7	7.6	7.2 - 8.4	7.6	7.6 - 9.8	8.9		
Hardness (as CaCO3)	ppm	N/A	N/A	276 - 351	310	60 - 167	109	8 - 150	56		
Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	ppm	N/A	N/A	215 - 258	238	51 - 152	89	6 - 150	54		
Boron	ppm	N/A	AL=1.0	0.14 - 0.20	0.16	0.12 - 0.18	0.16	0.02 - 0.17	0.073		
Magnesium	ppm	N/A	N/A	21 - 33	25	8 - 18	13	<0.5 - 12.3	6.6		
Potassium	ppm	N/A	N/A	1.1 - 1.5	1.3	1 - 4	2.7	<0.5 - 1.4	0.8		
Sodium	ppm	N/A	N/A	22 - 39	29	17 - 73	49	3 - 30	16		
Calcium	ppm	N/A	N/A	64 - 99	83	15 - 35	22	3 - 30	16		
Silica	ppm	N/A	N/A		n/a	11 - 17	14	4.4 - 7.2	6.3		
Radon	pCi/L	N/A	N/A	280 - 530	396		n/a		n/a		
Perchlorate	ppm	N/A	AL=6.0	ND - ND	ND	ND - ND	ND				
Vanadium	ppm	N/A	AL=50	ND - 0.013	0.0	ND - 0.004	0.004		n/a		
Chromium (Hexavalent)	ppb	N/A	N/A	0.25 - 2.75	1.6	ND - ND	ND		n/a		

SUNNYVALE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

	Unit	MCL ⁽²⁾	PHG ⁽³⁾ [MCLG] ⁽⁴⁾	Range	90th Percentile	Typical Sources in Drinking Water
LEAD AND COPPER RULE STUDY						
Copper - City of Sunnyvale (50 homes)	ppm	AL ⁽¹⁵⁾ AL=1.3 ⁽¹⁶⁾	0.17	ND - 0.43	0.279	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead - City of Sunnyvale (50 homes)	ppb	AL=15 ⁽¹⁷⁾	2	ND - 11	2	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
DISINFECTION BYPRODUCTS						
Total Trihalomethanes ⁽¹¹⁾	ppb	80	N/A	14.1 - 66	44.2	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ⁽¹¹⁾	ppb	60	N/A	5.3 - 30	22.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Disinfectant residual -chlorine	ppm	MRDL=4		1.7 - 2.1	1.9	Disinfectant added for treatment
MICROBIOLOGICAL						
Total Coliform Bacteria ⁽¹⁰⁾	% Pos	5	[0]	0 - 0.86	0.11	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and <i>E. Coli</i>	% Pos	⁽¹⁹⁾	[0]	0 - 1	0.04	Human and animal fecal waste

- (1) Set forth in 40 CFR Part 141 and 142 National Primary Drinking Water Regulation and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 116470

(2) Maximum Contaminant Level established by U.S. EPA/CA DHS

(3) Public Health Goal established by California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

(4) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal established by the Environmental Protection Agency

(5) Sunnyvale Municipal Wells (groundwater).

(6) Santa Clara Valley Water District (Rinconada Water Treatment Plant).

(7) San Francisco Water Department (Hetch-Hetchy).

(8) Turbidity is the water clarity indicator and standards are set per Treatment Technique or Source Water Type.

(9) Filtered water turbidity must be less than 0.3 NTU 95% of the time. The SFPUC and SCVWD met this standard 100 % of the time

(10) Coliform by Absence/Presence Method.

(11) 4-Quarter running average of TTHMs and HAA5 in Sunnyvale's water supply system.

(12) The reported data is minimum % of time that the filtered water has turbidity less than 0.3 NTU

(13) Federal MCLG is 10 mg/L for Nitrate as Nitrogen.

(14) The City of Sunnyvale has been monitoring for MTBE since 1997, and MTBE levels at all locations are below DHS limits

(15) Action Level (AL). The 90th percentile of lead or copper must be below the action level.

(16) In 2004, 0 out of 50 residences were over the action level.

(17) In 2004, 0 out of 50 residences were over the action level.

(18) SFPUC supplies fluoridated water.

(19) MCL: A routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or *E. coli* positive.
- Abbreviations and Units**

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

NS = No Standard

ND = None Detected

n/a = Not Available

ppm = parts per million (milligrams per liter)

umhos/cm = Micromhos/centimeter

pCi/L = picoCuries/liter (a measure of radioactivity)

% pos = % positive

ppb = parts per billion (micrograms per liter)

MFL = Million fibers per liter

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level

AL = Concentration of contaminant, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirement

TT = Treatment Technique

N/A = Not Applicable

CFU/ml= Colony-Forming Units/milliliter

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR NOTATIONS.

In accordance with DHS regulations, in 2004 the SCVWD monitored water quality for both source and treated water supplies, and in all cases has met the required limits. For additional information, contact the District at (408) 265- 2600 or visit their web site at www.scvwd.dst.ca.us.

In accordance with DHS regulations, in 2004 SFPUC monitored water quality for both source and treated water supplies, and in all cases has met the required limits. For additional information, call the SFPUC Water Quality Bureau at (650) 972-5950 or visit their web page at www.ci.sf.ca.us/puc.

In accordance with DHS regulations, in 2004 the City of Sunnyvale monitored water quality for its source water supplies, and in all cases has met the required limits. For some contaminants the State allows us to monitor less than once per year due to the fact that these contaminants do not change frequently.

Important Definitions for Understanding This Report

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
- Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS):** MCLs for contaminants that affect health, along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.
- Regulatory Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- Treatment Technique:** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- Variances and Exemptions** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions. The City of Sunnyvale has no variance or exemptions for MCLs.
- Waiver:** State permission to decrease the monitoring frequency for a particular contaminant.